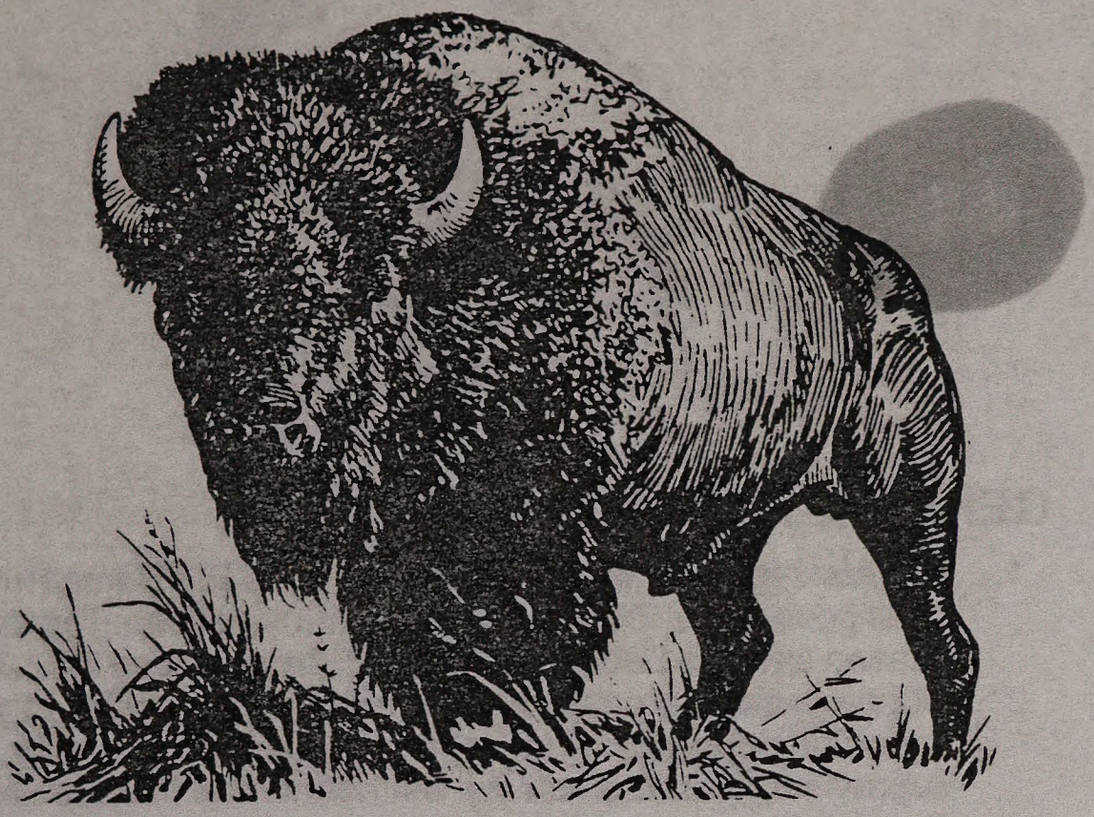


Montana
1985-86 BUFFALO HUNTING SEASON

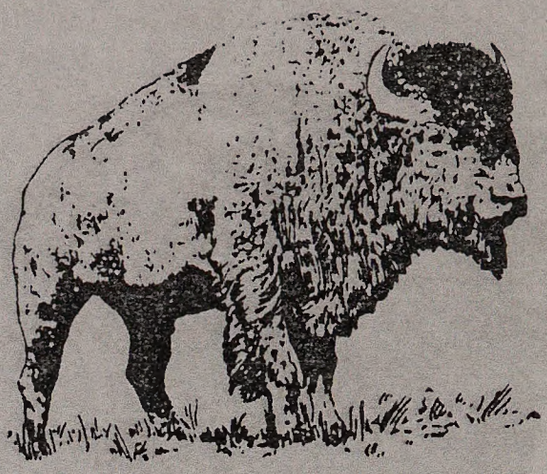
Regulations and Procedures

MONTANA'S BUFFALO SEASON

The 1985 Montana Legislature added wild buffalo (American Bison) to Montana's list of big game animals. The action was taken to allow the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to use hunting as one means to control buffalo that leave the confines of Yellowstone National Park. The control of these buffalo is necessary for a number of reasons, including disease and damage to private property.

Applications to hunt buffalo in Montana were accepted by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks through November 15, 1985. A roster of 500 potential hunters was developed following a drawing in late November.

Hunters on the roster will be offered the opportunity to hunt in the order in which they were drawn.



GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. General regulations as listed on the 1985 Big Game Hunting Map shall govern the 1985-86 buffalo hunting season. The dates of the season shall be December 1, 1985, through June 30, 1986.
2. Hunters must purchase a license when they arrive at the location specified during an initial notification call. Department personnel supervising hunting activity will handle the license sale activity. Only cash, money orders or cashiers checks will be accepted from nonresidents. Personal checks will be accepted from residents. Hunters must provide, or purchase a current conservation license ($2.00)and, if under 18 years of age, must provide their hunter education certificate ·
3. The fee for a RESIDENT BUFFALO LICENSE is $200 and the fee for a NONRESIDENT BUFFALO LICENSE is $1,000.
4. Only rifle hunting will be allowed (black-powder rifle is permitted).

HUNTER NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE AND HUNT FORMAT

1. Hunters will be notified, by telephone, when the department determines a hunting opportunity for buffalo is likely. Telephone calls will be made during the evening hours between 6-10 p.m., Mountain Standard Time, on the day buffalo are outside Yellowstone Park.
2. A minimum of three attempts will be made that evening to contact any one hunter. Contact attempts will be spaced at a minimum of half-hour intervals. Additional calls may be made if necessary.
3. Department personnel must speak directly to the potential hunter during the notification call.
4. If a hunter cannot be contacted, his/her name will be moved to the bottom of the 500 roster. *If a hunter does not wish to participate in the specified hunt, he/she will be removed from the roster.*
5. Hunters will be advised during the contact call of the following procedures:
   A) Where to check in.
   B) That they must be present at the check-in point within 36 hours following phone contact or their right to hunt will be forfeited.

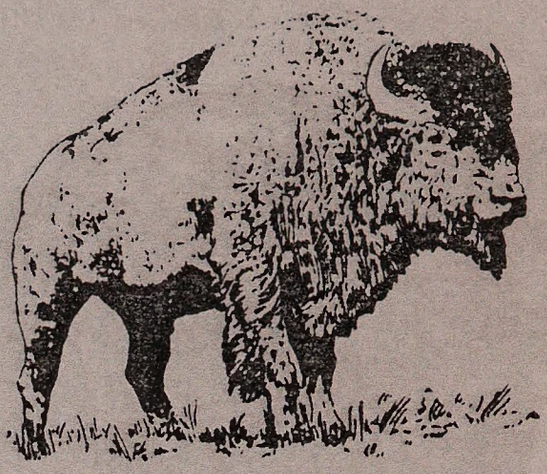
Brucellosis in buffalo is caused by a bacterium that can also infect humans. In humans, brucellosis is called undulant fever. Symptoms include intermittent fever, chills, night sweats, body aches, poor appetite and weakness. If undulant fever is treated early, it is fairly easy to cure. However, if the disease reaches a chronic stage, treatment is difficult.

In buffalo the bacteria is concentrated in the reproductive organs and the udder. What bacteria may be present in the meat are destroyed by cooking. Thus, when cooked, the meat is safe to eat. You can protect yourself when handling buffalo by the following steps:

1. Consider every Park buffalo to be infected. The results of blood tests showed over 50 percent to be potentially infected.
2. Always wear protective gloves when dressing carcasses or handling viscera.
3. Avoid contact with milk or material from the reproductive tract.
4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth until you have scrubbed after handling the animal.
5. Discard organ meats.
6. Thoroughly cook all meat consumed.

Some Outfitters in the Area Willing to Assist Buffalo Hunters

George Athas	R.R. Box 95 Gardiner, MT 59030 Phone: 406-848-7217
Gary Duffy	Box 863 Corwin Springs, MT 59021 Phone: 406-848-7287
Joe Heimer	Box 648 Gardiner, MT 59030 Phone: 406-848-7633
Bill Hoppe	Box 75 Jardine Rt. Gardiner, MT 59030 Phone: 406-848-7651
Kathryn Johnson	Jardine Rt. Box 185 Gardiner, MT 59030 Phone: 406-848-7256
Warren Johnson	Box 399 Gardiner, MT 59030 Phone: 406-848-7578
John McGee	Box 1132, Roger Lane Livingston, MT 59047 Phone: 406-222-0406
Joe Sperano	Box 262 Gardiner, MT 59030 Phone: 406-848-7288
Craig Mathews	Box 1037 West Yellowstone, MT 59758 Phone: 406-646-9365
Ken Whitman	Box 162 West Yellowstone, MT 59758 Phone: 406-646-9642



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C) Animal selection will be determined for hunters by the department in the order the hunter was selected during the drawing. In the event there is more than one hunter available in the field at the same time, in the same location, then the ranking of the individual hunter on the roster will dictate the order of buffalo selection.

D) *Hunters who are not interested in taking the type of animals they are told are available during the notification call will be removed from the roster.*

E) Hunting activity will be closely supervised by department employees. Hunters will be required to take specific buffalo as directed by the department. Animals available when a hunter arrives to hunt may differ from those available at the time of the notification call. *If the hunter does not wish to take the buffalo specified by the department in the field, his/her opportunity to hunt and license fee will be forfeited.*

6. Hunters will be given two consecutive days, after arrival at the hunting site, to hunt a buffalo.
7. If a hunter has a reasonable chance to take a buffalo within the two-day hunting period, but does not, his/her license fee and opportunity to hunt for this season will be forfeited.
8. In the event buffalo are not available to the hunter during the two-day period the license is valid, the license fee will be refunded, and the hunter will remain in the same priority on the roster for the next available hunt for that season.
9. Any questions regarding the hunter notification procedure and hunt format should be directed to the Bozeman Fish, Wildlife and Parks office at (406) 586-5419,or write to 8695 Huffine Lane, Bozeman, MT 59715.

FIELD HANDLING OF BUFFALO

Hunters will be completely responsible for field dressing and handling their buffalo. Buffalo can achieve a live weight of up to 2,000 pounds and a large bull is *impossible* for the average person to field dress alone. It is recommended that hunters either bring several people with them, or hire an outfitter (some are listed at the end of this brochure) to assist with the field dressing and loading of their buffalo. If hunters plan to field dress and load their own animal, equipment like knives, axes, saws, block and tackle may be necessary.

Buffalo may be in areas to which the hunter cannot drive, so horses, snow machines or all-terrain vehicles may be necessary to get the animal to a road. In some areas near Gardiner, the use of off-road motorized vehicles is restricted. The same regulations as those governing elk hunters will be in effect for buffalo hunters, (i.e., snowmobiles may be used on established roads after noon to aid in retrieval).

Because of a buffalo's large size and thick hide, the meat, if not properly cared for, may spoil in a short period of time. It is recommended that hunters have their animal skinned and quartered within 4-5 hours from the time it is killed. We further recommend that the hide not be left on any buffalo overnight even if it is hanging.

Some meat processing plants in the vicinity of Gardiner and West Yellowstone that will skin, quarter and process buffalo are listed at the end of this brochure. Hunters may want to contact a meat processing plant before hunting to make sure they can handle the animal on the day it is taken.

ENTRAIL REMOVAL

Hunters will be advised, when called and informed of their opportunity to hunt, whether or not buffalo are located in an area where entrail removal will be required. If entrail removal is required, a location acceptable for disposing of the entrails will be specified to the hunter.

When hunters are not required to remove the entrails, they will be required to split the rumen and spread the contents.

RIFLE CALIBER AND BULLETS

It is recommended hunters use a minimum of a .30 caliber rifle and a minimum of a 220 grain slow expanding bullet.

OUTFITTER SERVICES

If a hunter decides to use the services of an outfitter, he/she is urged to make contact with outfitters prior to heading to the area of the hunt. If this is impossible, outfitters probably will be available for hire after arrival. Fees charged by outfitters will vary and among other things will be based on services provided, location of the buffalo, its size and distance to the closest access road.

Some outfitters in the Gardiner and West Yellowstone areas willing to assist hunters are listed at the end of this brochure.

ADDITIONAL FEES

If buffalo are available on private lands where a fee is being charged, hunters will be informed of the fee when they are notified by telephone of their opportunity to hunt. If the fee being charged is more than the hunter chooses to pay, he/she may decline the opportunity to hunt. *Declining the opportunity to hunt will result in removal from the roster for that hunting year.*

YELLOWSTONE PARK BUFFALO AND BRUCELLOSIS

Buffalo in Yellowstone Park are known to be infected with brucellosis or Bangs Disease. There is strong evidence that the disease is transmissible between buffalo and cattle. If domestic cattle are infected, increased costs to the cattle producer occur. These costs result from the loss of production, loss of markets and costs of prevention. The presence of brucellosis in Park buffalo is one of the primary reasons that buffalo are being hunted when they cross the Park boundary.

Some Meat Processing Plants

Charles Glueckert 310 S. 2nd Livingston. MT 59047	Phone: 406-222-3229
Livingston Meats Co. 206 S. 11th Livingston, MT 59047	Phone: 406-222-0760 Ken Betley Home: 406-222-6425
Charles Mikolich Box 857 Corwin Springs, MT 59021	Phone: 406-848-7243
Wilderness Meats 116 N. L Street Livingston, MT 59047	Phone: 406-222-0104
Happel's Meat Processing and Meat Smoking Service 4200 Gooch Hill Road Bozeman, MT 59715	Phone: 406-587-8972
Crane's Game Processing 803 No. Wallace Ave Bozeman, MT 59715	Phone: 406-587-9385 Art Crane Home: 406-587-2358
The Meat Shoppe 722 N. Rouse Bozeman, MT 59715	Phone: 406-586-6328 John Bailey Home: 406-587-4391 Don DeBorde Home: 406-586-6238

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks